

Heidar Thor Thrastarson - Curriculum Vitae

Date and place of birth: July 10, 1979, in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Nationality: Icelandic.

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EDUCATION

Queen Mary University of London, UK

Oct 2007 - Nov 2011

PhD in astrophysics.

“General Circulation Modelling of Close-in Extrasolar Giant Planets”.

Thesis advisor: Dr. James Y-K. Cho.

Uppsala University, Sweden

Aug 2005 - Sep 2007

MSc in physics, specializing in astrophysics.

Dissertation: *“Radiation Energy Transport in Hydrodynamical Models of Protoplanetary Disks”.*

Advisor: Dr. Nikolai Piskunov.

University of Iceland, Reykjavik

Aug 1999 - Jun 2003

B.Sc. in Physics.

Kopavogur Grammar School, Kopavogur, Iceland

Aug 1995 - Jun 1999

Senior secondary school/college education.

Graduated from the field of natural sciences
with an average mark of 88,4%.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

NASA Postdoctoral Fellow

From Nov, 2011

Swedish 1-meter Solar Telescope,

Roque de los Muchachos, La Palma, Spain

Observations assistant

Jun - Aug, 2007

Landspítali - University Hospital,

Department of Radiation Physics

Reykjavik, Iceland

Physicist in Radiotherapy for Cancer

Sep, 2003 - Aug, 2005 and Jun - Aug, 2006

Iceland Science Institute,

Reykjavik, Iceland

Research Assistant

Jun - Aug, 2003 and Jun - Aug, 2002

Sony DADC,

Anif, Austria

Trainee

Jun - Jul, 2001

TEACHING	Queen Mary University of London, UK <i>Teaching Assistant</i> Taught exercise classes/tutorials and marked coursework for first and second year university level Calculus and Engineering Maths.	2007-2010
	Iceland Technical University, Reykjavik, Iceland <i>Teaching Assistant</i> Supervised experiments in a radiation physics course for radiology students.	Spring, 2004 and 2005
	University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland <i>Teaching Assistant</i> Supervised a group of engineering students in the experimental part of a first year university physics course.	Aug - Dec, 2004
PUBLICATIONS	Thrastarson, H. Th. & Cho, J.Y-K. 2010. <i>"Effects of Initial Flow on Close-in Planet Atmospheric Circulation"</i> . Astrophysical Journal, Volume 716, Issue 1, pp. 144-153.	
	Thrastarson, H. Th. & Cho, J.Y-K. 2011. <i>"Relaxation Time and Dissipation Interaction in Hot Planet Atmospheric Flow Simulations"</i> . Astrophysical Journal, Volume 729, pp. 117.	
	Polichtchouk, I., Cho, J.Y-K, Watkins, C., Thrastarson, H. Th. , Umurhan, O.M. & de la Torre Juarez, M. <i>"Intercomparison of General Circulation Models for Hot Extrasolar Planets"</i> . Submitted to Icarus.	
SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS	Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, USA <i>Circulation and Variability of Close-In Exoplanet Atmospheres.</i> Poster presented at the JPL Postdoc Research Day.	July, 2013
	Annapolis, Maryland, USA <i>General Circulation and Variability of Close-In Exoplanet Atmospheres.</i> Poster presented at the AGU Chapman Conference: Crossing the Boundaries in Planetary Atmospheres - From Earth to Exoplanets.	June, 2013
	UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA <i>General Circulation Modelling of Close-in Extrasolar Planets</i> iPLEX Lunch Seminar.	June, 2013
	San Francisco, California, USA <i>General Circulation and Variability of Close-In Exoplanet Atmospheres.</i> Poster presented at the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union.	Dec, 2012
	Madrid, Spain <i>General Circulation and Variability of Close-In Exoplanet Atmospheres and Intercomparison of GCMs for Hot Extrasolar Planets.</i> Talks given at the European Planetary Science Congress.	Sep, 2012
	Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, USA <i>Circulation and Variability of Close-In Exoplanet Atmospheres.</i> Poster presented at the JPL Postdoc Research Day.	July, 2012
	Aspen Physics Center, Colorado, USA <i>General Circulation Modeling of Hot Jupiters.</i> Talk given at a Workshop on Stochastic Flows and Climate Modeling.	June, 2012
	California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, USA <i>General Circulation Modeling of Close-in Extrasolar Planets</i> Yuk Lunch Seminar	Feb, 2012

<p>Royal Astronomical Society, London, UK <i>Atmospheric Dynamics of Hot Jupiters</i> Talk given at the RAS Specialist Discussion Meeting, Dynamics and Composition of (Exo)Planet Atmospheres</p>	<p><i>Feb, 2011</i></p>
<p>Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, USA <i>General Circulation Modeling of Close-in Extrasolar Planets</i> Talk given at the Astrophysics and Exoplanet Science Seminar</p>	<p><i>May, 2010</i></p>
<p>Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics, Santa Barbara, California, USA <i>General Circulation Modeling of Close-in Extrasolar Planets</i> Poster presented at the conference, Exoplanets Rising</p>	<p><i>Mar, 2010</i></p>
<p>Kobe, Japan <i>General Circulation Modeling of Close-in Extrasolar Planets</i> Poster presented at the CPS 6th International School of Planetary Sciences – Planetary Atmospheres</p>	<p><i>Jan, 2010</i></p>
<p>Vienna, Austria <i>General Circulation Modeling of Extrasolar Planets</i> Invited talk at the European Geophysical Union meeting</p>	<p><i>May, 2009</i></p>

GRANTS AND AWARDS

JPL Outstanding Postdoc Research Award, Planetary Science and Life Detection (2013)

NASA Postdoctoral Program Fellowship.

Royal Astronomical Society Research and Grants Fund.
 Awarded to support attendance at the KITP program, The Theory and Observation of Exoplanets.

Institute of Physics Research Student Conference Fund.

CR Barber Trust Fund, Institute of Physics.

Center for Planetary Science Travel Grant.
 Funding for the CPS School of Planetary Science, Kobe, Japan.

Anna and Allan Löfbergs stipend.
 A grant awarded to young scientists, aimed at research on the origin of planetary systems.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Referee for The Astrophysical Journal and Icarus.

Convener for the session *Nonlinear Processes in Planetary Atmospheres and Protoplanetary Disks* at the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union, December, 2012.

Participant in the *Workshop on Stochastic Flows and Climate Modeling* at the Aspen Physics Center, May - June, 2012.

Affiliate member at the Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics program *The Theory and Observations of Exoplanets*, in Santa Barbara, March - May, 2010.

Leader and organizer of weekly meetings of the Planetary Atmospheres and Dynamics group, University of London, 2009-2010.

Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Member of the American Geophysical Union.

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Operating Systems: Mac OS X, Unix/Linux, Windows.
- Programming languages and software: Fortran 90, MATLAB, shell scripting, NCAR Command Language, Mathematica, IDL, \LaTeX .

LANGUAGES

Icelandic (native language), fluent English and Swedish, good knowledge of Danish, basic German, French, Italian (high school studies) and Spanish, understand Norwegian.